

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Gardena, CA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Gardena for a Brownfields Pilot. Gardena has a population of 56,000, and 76 percent of the residents in the targeted community are low-income, minority residents. Gardena has one of the lowest assessed values per capita in the southwest area of Los Angeles County. The city has little vacant land to use for economic development, so it must focus efforts on brownfields for redevelopment.

The city funded a preliminary analysis of potential brownfields sites and identified 47 sites. From those 47 sites, the city, with input from the business community, selected seven sites to target for the Pilot. The targeted brownfields are clustered along major transportation routes in distressed areas in the city's northern section. Those seven sites include retail sites with abandoned and boarded-up buildings and/or adjacent underutilized land, a waste disposal sump site, and sites with known chemical and industrial contaminants, including heavy metals and mixed petroleum waste. The targeted sites were identified because of their high likelihood of immediate redevelopment, their high level of environmental risk

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Gardena, CA

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The City of Gardena Brownfields Pilot will target up to seven brownfields clustered along major transportation routes in the city's northern section.

Contacts:

Gardena Brownfields Pilot Project	Regional Brownfields Team
City of Gardena	U.S. EPA - Region 9
(310) 217-9533	(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

to the community, and the preference of the city's Economic Development Committee and members of business associations.

OBJECTIVES

The Pilot seeks to address the environmental and public health priorities of the community by accelerating the process of brownfield assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment, thereby eliminating environmental and public health issues. The goal of the city is to establish social and economic viability of targeted sites through a partnership with the Economic Development Committee, the business community, residents, community agencies, and developers. The goal of the Pilot project is to conduct environmental site assessments at the targeted sites and plan cleanup and redevelopment strategies. The efforts of the city will support and encourage further cleanup and redevelopment in the area and potentially create hundreds of jobs that will benefit lower- and moderate-income people in the community.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental assessments and coordinating with the state's voluntary cleanup program at up to seven targeted brownfields;
- Developing cleanup plans and cost estimates for the targeted brownfields;
- Using a community-based facilitator to bolster community input, participation, and information processes at the targeted brownfields; and
- Developing and implementing other community outreach efforts to supplement the community facilitator process.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.